

Lions/Rotary Senior Dinner and Light Tour a Big Success

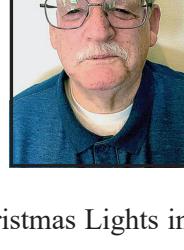


The Senior Dinner and Light Tour was well attended
Photo Credit: Vic Sample



Rotary and Lions members served the meals: Rotarian Eileen Roy, Rotarian Diane Brown, Lion Laura Knaff, at a quiet moment
Photo Credit: Vic Sample

Victor Sample



The annual Lions and Rotary Senior Dinner and Light Tour dates back to 2006. Members of the Lions Club brought forward the idea of sponsoring a dinner for the Townsend Area Senior Citizens and doing a tour of the Christmas Lights in Townsend.

The event has grown to be a two-night event. This year, the dinner/light tour served over 80 seniors. Rides to the event were provided to those seniors who asked for help getting to the event. Poinsettias were sent to

the homes of those who were unable to attend.

Nineteen years later, the event is still a popular and well attended event. The Lions Club and Rotary Club co-sponsor the dinner at the Townsend Senior Center. This year, the dinner was catered by Angie Wintrow and her crew. A wonderful dinner consisting of salad, ham, turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn and all the coffee/tea/water we could drink was served by members of the Lions and Rotary clubs. Each attendee received a bag of holiday cookies to enjoy and take home - if they didn't eat them all immediately.

One of the always enjoyable highlights of the dinner is a spirited "competition" between the Lions and

Rotary about the history, membership and community projects completed by both clubs. This year, Gary Olsen represented the Lions Club and Jeff Langlinais represented the Rotary Club.

After the dinner, the Seniors were taken on a tour of the Townsend Christmas Lights. The Townsend Schools activity bus was available for Seniors that were able to board the bus. Billings Clinic Broadwater provided their transportation van for those seniors not able to board the bus.

Everyone in attendance had a wonderful time! Thank you, Lions and Rotary members, for another memorable dinner and light tour.

****~ EARLY HOLIDAY EDITION DEADLINE NOTICE FOR MT43 NEWS CONTRIBUTORS ~****

Ad Date & Time | Article Date & Time | Print Date

• Fri. 12.19.25 @ 2PM | Mon. 12.22.25 @ 12PM | Fri. 1.2.26 | New Year Edition



Megan Bleile named Coach of the Year for State Class B Volleyball

Article on Page 2



Coach of the Year Megan Bleile, center, with her assistant coaches, Alice Estrada, left, and Cayla Rueb, right.
Kelly Morris Photography

Local Actors Provide a Laugh a Minute at Dinner Theater

**MT43 News Staff
Reporter**

If you like comedy theater Saturday night at the Lodge was your cup of tea. Actors from Winston and Townsend kept a standing room only audience laughing from the time they began their "business meeting" until the murder of Santa was solved.

Flirty Sally, played by Rehanna Olson, worked at enticing board member Brad (Pat Plantenberg) and sheriff (Zach Johnson) to join her for mistletoe mischief while board chairwoman Lee (Renee Bauer) did her best to keep the meeting moving along. Lyz (Chloe Johnson), who is Flirty Sally's conservative daughter, works at trying to keep her mom in line.

Suddenly, everyone notices a terrible smell coming from under the office table: board members discover a box containing the dead Santa Claus. As the sheriff arrives, so begins questioning of who killed Santa, including strategically placed members of the audience. With Candice Marchetta's sign coaxing, reaction from the crowd continues to goad the actors into even more antics. Finally, Flirty Sally confesses and all's well that ends well.

An excellent four-course dinner, cooked by Broadwater Community Theater board members, ended with beautifully decorated cupcakes and cookies from baker Brenda Phillips's kitchen. Sponsors are Jak's Heating and Art, East Helena; Nancy Marks, Bill Kearns Estate, Patrick Plantenberg and Mary Mistek, Beth Ihle, Townsend Rotary, Jeanne Mainwaring, Jan Hubber, Ron and Mary Ann Salladay, Judy Schenk, Opportunity Bank, STOKE, John Hahn, Bob Saxby, Brian and Laura Obert, Chuck McLane, Dwight and Julie Thompson and Retired Teachers' Group.

BCT board members would like to thank their



Dinner Theater Actors back row from left: Chloe Johnson, Angela Johnson, Rehanna Olson and Pat Plantenberg. Front row from left: Renee Bauer, Zach Johnson and Candice Marchetta.
MT43 News Photo



The 'business meeting' in progress while a mysterious box lurks under the table during the "Mistletoe Incident," a play for the season at the Lodge Saturday night. From left: Renee Bauer, Pat Plantenberg, Angela Johnson, Rehanna Olson and Chloe Johnson.
MT43 News Photo

sponsors and all who made the night successful. The theater board members encourage new actors and theater enthusiasts to join the group for fun involvement in ongoing productions. For more information, please visit the BCT website or call LaRinda at (406) 475-4016.

May Your Days Be Merry and Bright!

To all our loyal customers,
Wishing you all a very
Merry Christmas and
May God Bless you all!



303 N Front St
Townsend, MT
(406) 980-8400



Fun Fact

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the top three states for growing and selling Christmas trees are Oregon, North Carolina and Michigan. The most popular kinds of trees sold are Fraser firs, Douglas firs, Balsam firs, Colorado Blue Spruce and Scotch Pine.

Sources: www.nass.usda.gov, forestry.about.com

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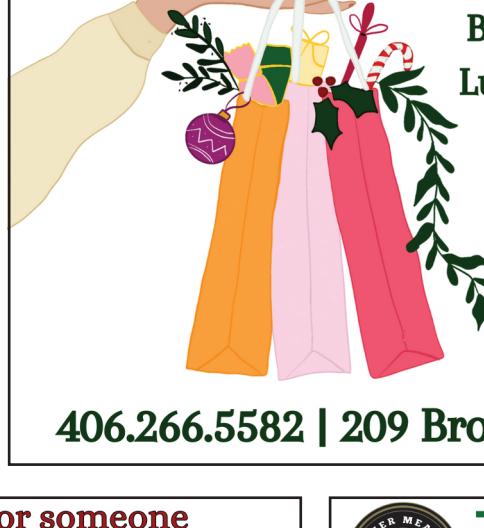
LAST CHANCE LOCAL CHRISTMAS MARKET



at the Fish Tale Tavern backroom,
Saturday December 20
from Noon until 4:00pm (or later).

Many local vendors with great ideas
for your last minute gifts.

Treat yourself to lunch and
shopping local with
Broadwater County vendors.
Lunch special starts at Noon.



406.266.5582 | 209 Broadway

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Merry Christmas

visit our website
for more
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TRAILHEAD
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
20 Trailhead View Dr.
Townsend, MT 59644
406-266-4406

Candle Light Christmas Eve Service
4:30pm



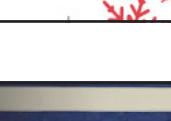
A Gift for
BROADWATER COUNTY COMMUNITY

Free
Christmas
Dinner

DECEMBER 25TH AT 12 PM
DELIVERED TO YOU

TO ORDER: SCAN THE CODE
OR CALL 406-266-4406

TRAILHEAD
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



Coach of the Year, Picture on Page 1

MT43 News Staff Reporter

The Montana Coaches Association has announced its Coach of the Year Awards for the Fall Season in all sports. Townsend Schools own Megan Bleile has been selected as the 2025-2026 Coach of the Year for State Class B Volleyball. This prestigious honor is a selection by peer coaches throughout the state, a coveted title.

A native of Belt, MT, Mrs. Bleile teaches Mathematics at BHS. She took over the volleyball program in 2019, having had previous coaching experience at Butte Central High School, Joliet, and Capital High in both volleyball and track. In the seven years she's been coaching in Townsend, Bleile has led the team to the state tournament five times, bringing home two 3rd place trophies and two 2nd place trophies. This year the team finished 2nd at State and had a 21-5 season record.

But it's not all about the hardware or placings. Megan modestly claims, "Without the girls' commitment and dedication, we couldn't have gotten that 2nd place finish. I just give them the tools to be successful, and they go out and execute. I also couldn't have earned this without the help of my amazing assistant coaches, Alieece Estrada and Cayla Rueb."

Coach Bleile's philosophy is to focus on the whole student-athlete's success on and off the court. Together, she and her assistants work on building character for the girls' future successes. Their goal is to transform

young women to be authentic in their relationships, be responsible leaders, and live with a passion that will change the world. Both in and out of the classroom, she emphasizes hard work, accountability, and discipline while building relationships. Bleile knows successful programs start at the top. Summers are spent devoting hours to off season training for building the teams from Little Dogs to Big Dogs by organizing VB camps and securing top notch college athletes to help run them. All in addition to following her own two boys who are active in baseball, football and wrestling. Her husband John is a huge support and biggest cheerleader.

Bleile's philosophy has had an impact. According to senior player Emmalin Fischer, "Megan Bleile is an amazing coach! She put a lot of work into our team to make us better, and got to know each and every one of us on a different level. Coach Bleile said over State week and weekend 'you guys are going to do something special this week. And she was right. She always believes and never gives up. And that makes a great coach!"

Coach Bleile will receive her award along with a plaque and ring at an awards ceremony July 30, 2026, during the 59th MCA Multi-Sport Clinic in Great Falls. Her assistants and spouse will also be recognized with a certificate in honor of their supportive contributions throughout the season.

Congratulations on a well-deserved honor, Megan! We're Bulldog proud of you.

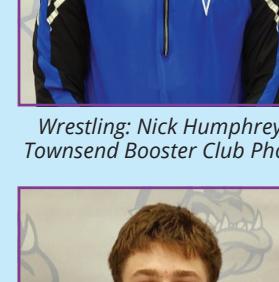
PLAYERS of the WEEK



Speech and Drama:

Noah Borror

Townsend Booster Club Photo



Wrestling: Nick Humphreys

Townsend Booster Club Photo



Girls Basketball: Kaitlyn Noyes

Townsend Booster Club Photo



Boys Basketball:

Tayvn Anderson

Townsend Booster Club Photo

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

A Talented Illustrator in Our Midst



Angel Rodriguez of Art of the Angel Productions puts the finishing touches on window art at the new Bird's Nest.
MT43 News Photo

MT43 News Staff Reporter

Speaking of volunteering, Angel Rodriguez of Art of the Angel has added the finishing touches to the windows at the Bird's Nest on Broadway. The detailed windows portray a snow-white Santa and a shining Christmas tree, just in time for the Christmas Stroll last Saturday.

The talented man, who has been drawing since he was in grade school, has had no professional training in art. He began his career in the tattoo arts but built his skills in woodwork. He and his family have lived in Townsend for six months, having moved here from Helena. The 45-year-old was born in Puerto Rico and moved to this country many years ago to become a citizen. He now operates a small shop at the Bird's Nest, thanks to owner Gena Berry. He does small



Art of the Angel artist Angel Rodriguez finishes his window painting complete with a snowman in time for the annual Christmas Stroll.
MT43 News Photo

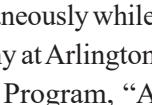
woodworking jobs and operates a handyman business. Rodriguez can be reached at (406) 438-6892 or by calling the Bird's Nest.

National Wreaths Across America Day Celebrated at Fort Harrison



First 5 of ten wreaths honoring veterans left - right, US Army, US Marine Corps, US Navy, US Air Force, and US Space Force.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

Matt Nelson

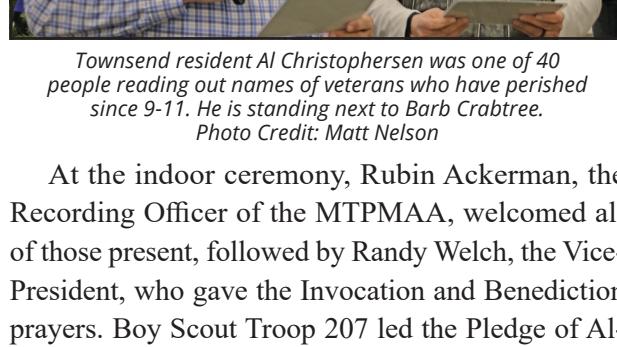


On Saturday, December 13th, there was an indoor ceremony at the Helena Armed Forces Reserve Center at Fort Harrison to honor our military veterans who have perished, followed by the laying of wreaths at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery. This occurred simultaneously while wreaths were laid at the national ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Quoting from the Program, "A minute of silence is observed to remember the fallen, the prisoners of war, the missing in action, and to honor those who have served and are serving in this great nation's armed forces."

Wreaths Across AmericaTM is a national organization that was started at Arlington in 1992 with the laying of 5000 wreaths that had been donated by Maine businessman, Morrill Worcester. Now, the laying of wreaths occurs at 3,702 locations across the country. In 2022, 2.7 million wreaths were placed; 1600 were placed at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery on this day. The ceremony and the laying of the wreaths were hosted by the Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association.

Also, according to Patty Donoho, a member of the Oro Fino Chapter in Helena of the Daughters of the American Revolution, "We are a wreath sponsor for Wreaths Across America."

Another sponsor at this ceremony was the MTP-MAA, the Montana POW/MIA Awareness Association (MTRidetoRemember.org). They have been the main sponsor for the eleventh consecutive year. During the Summer, approximately 200 members ride their motorcycles from Helena to Yellowstone to honor the POW/MIA veterans.



Townsend resident Al Christopherson was one of 40 people reading out names of veterans who have perished since 9-11. He is standing next to Barb Crabtree.
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

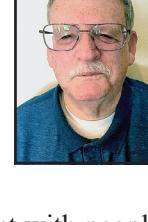
At the indoor ceremony, Rubin Ackerman, the Recording Officer of the MTPMAA, welcomed all of those present, followed by Randy Welch, the Vice-President, who gave the Invocation and Benediction prayers. Boy Scout Troop 207 led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Charmaine Lindgren led the Singing of our National Anthem.

Navy veteran Barb Crabtree called out for 10 memorial wreaths to be posted by representatives of the US Army, US Marine Corps, US Navy, US Air Force, US Space Force, US Coast Guard, US Space Force, US Coast Guard, US Merchant Marine, POW/MIA, White Star, and Gold Star.

About 40 people lined up to read the names of 44 Montana service members fallen since 9/11. A few people read two names. Follow this, Lisa Juvik Leland, the President of the MT POW/MIA Awareness Association gave closing remarks, and after that everyone was dismissed to go to the Montana State Veterans Cemetery, where somebody played TAPS on a bugle, and later on in the day the 1600 wreaths were actually placed on the graves of our fallen heroes. It was an emotional experience just being there.

Wine Tasting at the Betsy

Victor Sample



On December 16, Doug Sitton and Chase Ragen hosted the Christmas-themed monthly wine tasting event at The Betsy. This wine tasting marked the 27th wine tasting. The Betsy was full on that night with people attending the event.

As always, the wine and food were excellent. The wine at the event was supplied by George's Distributing out of Helena. Vivian Boaz catered food for the event, and the wine/food pairing was terrific. The Betsy Bar area is closed for the event, and Jodi Toney decorated The Betsy with a beautiful Christmas theme.

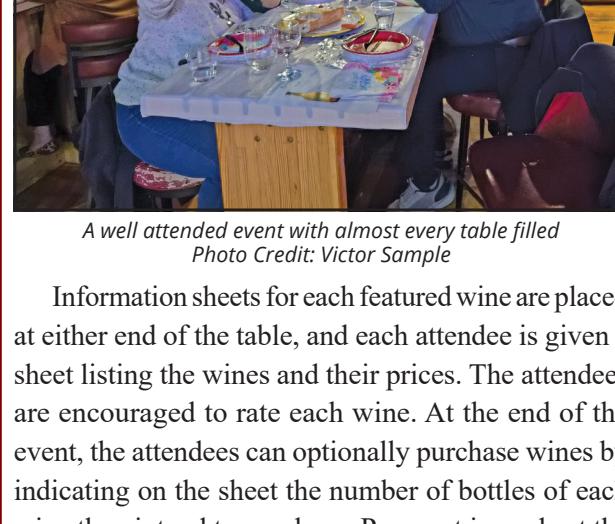
Every wine tasting features at least 6 wines: 3 white wines and 3 red wines. Occasionally, a seventh wine is added to the list. Host Doug Sitton always opens the event with a welcoming to those in attendance, a small statement about the purpose of the event, and a little history of the event. Doug then introduces the representative(s) from George's Distributing. This night we had Katie and David from George's Distributing.



Katie and David from George's Distributing along with Host Doug Sitton
Photo Credit: Victor Sample

Doug, from George's Distributing, introduces each wine in turn and discusses the vintner, the grape(s) used, and what we should expect to taste in the wine. After the introduction to the wine, the wine is poured. Doug, David and Katie went to each table pouring a "tasting" of the wine. A tasting is about a third of a standard glass of wine.

In the past, charcuterie boards filled with food were provided and served buffet style. After receiving many requests to do wine/food pairing, the event has switched from buffet-style charcuterie boards to catered food that pairs with the wine served to each table – a plate at each end.



A well attended event with almost every table filled
Photo Credit: Victor Sample

Information sheets for each featured wine are placed at either end of the table, and each attendee is given a sheet listing the wines and their prices. The attendees are encouraged to rate each wine. At the end of the event, the attendees can optionally purchase wines by indicating on the sheet the number of bottles of each wine they intend to purchase. Payment is made at the bar. Doug will then pick up the wines from George's and bring them to the Betsy. They are usually there by Wednesday or Thursday following the event.



A fun group of ladies enjoying the wine tasting
Photo Credit: Victor Sample

If you don't happen to like wine – gasp – the event does not discriminate. If you prefer to drink beer or hard liquor, the bar is open, and you can drink what you would like.

Every wine tasting is an opportunity to try new wines, share a glass (or 6) with friends and to make new friends! If you would like to try coming to the wine tasting event, watch the marquis at The Betsy or ask a friend who has been going how to join us – you will have a great time!

Townsend School & Sports**DECEMBER****Fri 19 - Sat 20**

- High School Wrestling at Great Falls - CMR

Friday 19

- NO SCHOOL**

3:00 pm: High School Basketball vs Whitehall

Saturday 20

- Speech and Drama at Choteau
- 1:00 pm: High School Basketball vs Manhattan Christian

Sunday 21

- 3 on 3 Youth Basketball Tournament - Stage Gym and 63 Gym

Mon, Dec 22 - Fri, Jan 2

- NO SCHOOL** - Winter Break

Mon 29 - Tue 30

- 10:00 am: Middle School Girls Basketball Camp - 63 Gym

East Helena Schools & Sports**DECEMBER****Friday 19**

- Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball at Hamilton Tip-Off
- 1:30 pm: **EARLY RELEASE**

Saturday 20

- Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball at Hamilton Tip-Off

Mon, Dec 22 - Fri, Jan 2

- NO SCHOOL** - Christmas Break

BROADWATER COUNTY GOVERNMENT CALENDAR**DECEMBER****Tuesday 23**

- 10:00 am: Commission/CAO Working Meeting

Wednesday 24

- 10:00 am: Commission Meeting

LIBRARY HOURS**Broadwater School and Community Library****HOURS:**

Monday-Thursday:

4:00 - 7:00pm

Friday-Saturday:

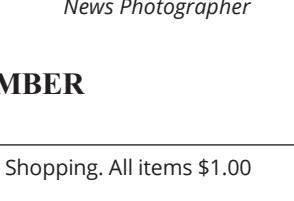
9:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday: 12:00 - 5:00pm

Curbside also available please call: (406)441-3461

Books & Babies Story Hour: Mondays 11:00am-12:00pm

the first 4 Mondays of the month.

CLOSED CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR DAYS.**EAST HELENA LIBRARY HOURS****Andrea Eckerson**
Branch Manager

Lewis & Clark Library East Helena Branch, 16 E Main Street in East Helena.
Nancy Marks, MT43 News Photographer

HOURS:

Monday - Wednesday:

10 am- 6:00 pm.

Thursday and Friday:

10 am- 5:00 pm

Saturdays: 10 am-1:00 pm

Sundays: Closed

DECEMBER**Fri 19 -Sat 20**

- 1:30 pm: Kids' Holiday Shopping. All items \$1.00

Wednesday 24

- 10:30 am: Kids Storytime

- 3:00 pm: Close

Thursday 25

- CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS**

Tuesday 30

- 1:00 pm: Kids Movie Time

Wednesday 31

- 10:30 am: Kids Storytime

- 3:00 pm: Close

Thu, JANUARY 1

- CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR**

FUND RAISER FOR HELPING HANDS

Helping Hands Townsend has served Townsend with thrift stores since 2016 and has given the community over \$112,000 in aid during that time. Our stores have provided volunteer opportunities as well as a place to buy necessary items at reasonable prices. Since renting a building is unpredictable, we are launching a capital campaign to raise funds to purchase a building large enough to house both of our thrift stores. **It's time for us to buy our own HOME!**

As we are a 501(c)(3) organization, your donations to HHT are tax deductible. Donate today by depositing funds in "Helping Hands Building Fund" at Opportunity Bank.

If you have any questions, please contact Sheila at Helping Hands Townsend 4 KIDS & U2 Thrift Store or call 406-422-6043

ATTENTION!

Top Gun Auto Body Townsend is offering Gift Certificates for Vehicle detailing.

Call 406-266-3110 or stop by 7675 US Hwy 287 in Townsend!

BROADWATER COMMUNITY CALENDAR**DECEMBER****Friday 19**

- 12:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves Bookstore and Coffee Nook

Saturday 20

- 4:30 pm: Last Chance Local Christmas Market and Lunch Special at Fish Tale Tavern, 209 Broadway **SEE AD ON PAGE 2**
- 5:00 pm: Big Sky Culinary Classes and Catering Host a Gourmet Dinner at The Lodge of Townsend
- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Mon 22 - Tue 23

- 11:00 am: **FREE** Hot Lunch and board games for ALL school-aged kids & teens @ Reading Leaves Bookstore, 401 Broadway, Townsend **INFO ON THIS PAGE & PAGE 7**

Tuesday 23

- 5:00 pm: American Legion Post 42 Food and Bingo at American Legion Post 42 Club
- 5:30 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Wednesday 24

- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 4:30 pm: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at Trailhead Church, 20 Trailhead View Dr **SEE AD ON PAGE 2**

Thursday 25

- FREE** Christmas Dinner Delivered **SEE AD ON PAGE 2 TO ORDER**
- 7:00 pm: Al-Anon at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry

Friday 26

- 2:00 pm: Alcoholics Anonymous at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 301 N Cherry
- 1:00 pm: Townsend Pinochle Club at Broadwater County Sr. Center, 516 2nd St
- 5:00 pm: READ and ROLL: Game Night for All Ages (12 & under with adult) at Reading Leaves Bookstore and Coffee Nook

Saturday 27

- 6:00 pm: Fireside Alcoholics Anonymous at 102 N. Walnut, 406-439-3945

Mon 29 - Tue 30

- 11:00 am: **FREE** Hot Lunch and board games for ALL school-aged kids & teens @ Reading Leaves Bookstore, 401 Broadway, Townsend

INFO ON THIS PAGE & PAGE 7

CLASSIFIEDS

TURN TO PAGE 6
FOR LEGAL NOTICES!

Broadwater Rural Fire Board Meeting

3rd Wednesday each month.

Next meeting: January 15th, 7:00PMAt the Townsend Fire Station - 130 So Cedar St
See Board Meeting Agenda at: <http://www.facebook.com/BroadwaterCountyVolunteerFireDepartment>**EGGS!**

Eggs for sale! \$4.00 Dozen - Toston area
Call and leave message and I'll call you back.
406-980-0650

WANTED

I want to buy a Home, Lot, Parcel or Acreage in the vicinity of Highway 284 East of Canyon Ferry Reservoir.

Could buy outright, trade for what I have or will consider other options.

Call Dick at 406-581-5635. Please leave message if no answer.

LOCAL WORK
HELP WANTED

Farm Help Needed: Harvesting and Haying
Contact Leonard 406-949-0208

Job Posting

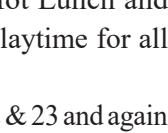
Toston Irrigation District is hiring a person to maintain and distribute water.

Contact Leonard at 406-949-0208 or by email tid@mt.net



MT43 News is reaching out to our East Helena supporters in hopes to expand your local news!

Please send your stories and free event information to mt43news@mt43news.com or call 10am - 2pm, Monday - Friday!

Holiday Hot Lunch and Hangout:**Free Winter Break Meals and Fun****for Townsend Youth****Rachael Brug**

School's out, but the spirit of community is in full swing this holiday season at Reading Leaves Bookstore! Family Promise of Townsend, Fishes & Loaves of Townsend, and Reading Leaves Books are teaming up to offer a special series of events: Holiday Hot Lunch and Hangout—a free, drop-in lunch and playtime for all school-age kids and teens.

Mark your calendars for December 22 & 23 and again on December 29 & 30, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., when Fishes & Loaves will be serving up free hot lunches at Reading Leaves Bookstore. Kids are invited to come in from the cold, enjoy a delicious meal, and stick around to play board games with family and friends, or try their hand at a craft project. PTA and community volunteers will be on hand to help serve and join in on the fun—whether that's explaining the rules of a new board game or lending a hand with crafts.

Rachael Brug, owner of Reading Leaves Bookstore, shares, "With the general tightness of budgets lately and food insecurity being relatively high, we wanted to help in some way. We thought hot lunches over the long winter break with an opportunity to get out of the house for some free fun would be just the ticket."

Fishes & Loaves, a local food ministry, is making these meals possible thanks to the generosity of group members and a network of independent contractors. Any extra food will be donated through local churches and food pantries.

Family Promise Townsend/Broadwater County, known for supporting families in crisis, is also a key partner—helping keep local households safe and stable, and connecting families with vital resources. To get in touch with Family Promise, contact Family Promise of Greater Helena: Townsend and Broadwater County at 406.465.9467

No registration is required—just drop in! Please note, children under 12 should be accompanied by an adult.

Don't miss this chance for good food, community connection, and a warm place to gather during winter break. For more information, contact Reading Leaves Bookstore or visit their Facebook Page @ [readingleavesbooks](https://www.facebook.com/readingleavesbooks).

NOW BUILDING**FLATBEDS****CUSTOM OPTIONS SPECIFIC TO YOUR TRUCK****(406) 594-1854****DOUBLE DIAMOND****FABRICATION****CUSTOM OPTIONS SPECIFIC TO YOUR TRUCK****(406) 594-1854****DOUBLE DIAMOND****FABRICATION**



RESTAURANTS IN AND AROUND BROADWATER COUNTY

Dates and times may vary due to events, seasons or holidays. Call the restaurant with any questions. Happy Dining!



American Legion Hall

211 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-3611
Dining Hours: Tuesday Bingo/Bowl & a Roll 5:00PM
SPECIAL Event with Food: Saturday 11/22/25 @ 1:00PM
FREE Thanksgiving Dinner Bar hours may vary

The Betsy Sports Zone

217 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-0001
Dining Hours: Tue-Sun 11:00AM-Close
Closed Monday
Takeout placed only in person.
Menu: www.betseysportszone.com

Bread and Butter Cafe

205 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-3025
Dining Hours: Tue - Fri 7:00AM- 2:00PM Sat 7:00AM- 12:00PM
Closed Sunday & Monday
Menu available on Facebook

Bunkhouse Bar & Grill

8846 US-287, Toston (406) 266-5302
SPECIAL: N/A
Dining Hours: 10:00AM – Close
Grill off at 10:00PM

Canyon Ferry Brewing & Taproom

300 Broadway, Townsend (406) 694-5687
Hours: Wed - Fri. 4:00PM - Close
Sat and Sun 2:00PM - Close

C Hangin' C Mercantile & Creamery

310 S Front St, Townsend (406) 266-9087
Dining Hours: Mon - Fri 7:30AM - 7:00PM Sat 8:00AM - 7:00PM Sun 9:00AM - 5:00PM
Menu: Facebook changincmerc.square.site

Commercial Bar

101 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-9956
Dining Hours: 10:00AM - 2:00AM
Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas
Menu available on Facebook

Mint Cafe

305 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-3867
Dining Hours: Mon - Wed 8:00AM - 2:00 PM, Thur - Fri 8:00AM - 8:00PM Sat - Sun 7:00AM - 8:00PM
SPECIAL: N/A

Copy Cup

303 N Front St, Townsend (406) 980-8400
Please call in business hours.
Drinks and Pastry Hours: Mon - Fri 7:00AM - 3:00PM Sat 8:30AM - 2:00PM
Closed Sunday

Mountie Moose Bakery

109 Broadway, Townsend (406) 266-5800
Dining Hours: Tue - Sat 7:00AM - 4:00PM
Closed Sunday & Monday
Online Ordering: Mountie-moose-bakery.square.site

Deep Creek Pizza Co.

415 Broadway Ste 2, Townsend (406) 266-0002
Dining Hours: 11:00AM - 8:00 PM
Closed Sunday
Menu: deepcreekpizzaco.com
Accepting Orders Online

Mountain Grounds Coffee

(406) 475-0672
401 Broadway, Townsend
Dining Hours: Mon - Fri 7:00AM - 4:30PM Sat - Sun 8:00AM - 5:00PM
Online Ordering: MTNGROUNDS.com

Fishtale Tavern

209 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-5582
Dining Hours: Tuesday 10:00AM - Midnight
Wed - Sat 10:00 AM - Close
Sunday 10:00 AM - Midnight
Closed Monday
Daily Specials: Facebook

Peking China

10 N Main St, Three Forks (406) 285-3225
Dining Hours: Mon - Sun 11:30AM - 8:30PM
Menu: Google

Full Belli Deli

209 S Front St, Townsend (406) 266-5459
Dining Hours: Mon - Sun 8:00AM - 7:00PM
OPEN 4th of JULY

Rocky Mountain Supply Deli

7847 US Hwy 287, Townsend (406) 266-3456
Hot & Cold To-Go Hours: Mon-Fri 6:00AM - 6:00PM
Menu: Board Inside Store
for Take-and Bake or Ready-to-Eat Pizza
Call Ahead or Order Inside

Kick Start Nutrition

500 N Front St, Townsend (406) 266-0033
Dining Hours: Tue - Fri 7:00AM - 3:00PM Sat 9:00AM - 3:00PM
Closed Sunday & Monday
Daily Specials: Facebook & Instagram

TB's Diner

316 N Front St, Townsend, (406) 266-0099
Dining Hours: Mon - Sat 7:00AM - 8:00PM Sunday 7:00AM - 7:00PM
Specials: Facebook

Vaquero's Mexican Restaurant

219 Broadway St, Townsend (406) 266-1860
Dining Hours: Tue - Sun 11:00AM - 9:00PM
Closed Mondays
Menu & Specials: Facebook
Call Ahead or Order Inside

Broadwater Area Restaurants

Contact MT 43 News, Monday- Friday 10 - 2, if you would like to talk about how to add your dining location and open hours to our paper! 406.266.0086 | 408 Broadway, Townsend, MT

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: U equals G

G H L P O F W X G W T W W T W E L F P Z L
Q Y P R N L R J Y W L ' T W H P O V Z N
Q N J W E - Q P E V E N T G V W , G
U O W R R L P O ' E W U O X X L - F X W .

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KNIGHT MOVES

O	E	T
I		T
T	S	L

Unlock the power of chess to find the eight-letter word of the day. Choose your starting letter carefully, then move around the square in a one by two fashion to get to the next letter.

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Booster

TOCKER

Consume

OUDEV'R

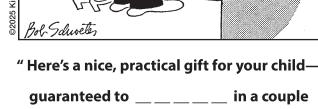
Intellect

NABIR

Guide

CORSET

TODAY'S WORD



"Here's a nice, practical gift for your child - guaranteed to - in a couple of hours."

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LOCAL BUSINESS

DIRECTORY



A+ STORAGE

SEVERAL SIZES OF STORAGE UNITS
BOATS, RV's & TRAILER STORAGE
IN TOWNSEND, MT
WE ARE AVAILABLE WHEN
YOU NEED US!

406-266-5377, 406-580-5425

ALLIED MACHINE

Quality & Service Since 1988
• RV Repair • Trailer Repair
• Pump Repair • Machine Work
• Aluminum Welding

406.266.3108

511 N. Front St., Townsend, MT

BSE EXCAVATING

7200 HWY 287, TOWNSEND, MT
BRANDON BAKKEN
SHANE TEW
P - (406)266-3772
C - (406)980-1100

MADISON RIVER 7812 US-287 Townsend, MT
A THOMPSON GAS COMPANY
PROpane
406-266-4278

Metered Propane
Budget Billing
Lease Tanks
Service Department

CONTACT MT 43 NEWS TO LIST
YOUR BUSINESS NOW!

MONDAY - FRIDAY

10:00AM - 2:00PM

408 BROADWAY, TOWNSEND
406.266.0086

Licensed
Insured

Mar Painting

Interior Al Nyhart
Exterior (406) 223-3074

MONTANA
HYDRAULICS LLC
Fabrication & Machining

- DD Custom Flatbed Dealer
- Laser Cut Parts Fabrication
- Machining Hydraulics

406-449-3464 | Townsend-Helena

Schauber Surveying, Inc.
Land Surveyors

Surveying Montana
and Broadwater
County since 1995
Dan Swenson, PLS
Bernadette Swenson, PLS
64 Jack Farm Road, Townsend, MT 59644
406-266-4602 schaubersurvey@gmail.com

Special K
Plumbing and Heating
Danny Kurk- Owner
Open 24/7 | Townsend, MT
(406)922-1315

Weekly SUDOKU

5	6	7		8	1	3	4	2
			7		6			
8			4	5				9
	2			6	9		7	4
7			2	4	5			8
		3		7	2			
4			9					1
	8				4		2	
	1		5	7			6	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Super Crossword

UNIVERSITY SUBSTITUTES



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LEGAL NOTICES



Legal notices are required to print in local newspapers and may hold private or public interest. Here you may read about Probate Notices, Estate Settlements and other Judicial Actions as well as important Broadwater County notices.

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to Montana Code Annotated § 71-1-313, Verla L. Martin and Stacey Martin as BENEFICIARIES of the TRUST INDENTURE, recorded in Broadwater County on October 4th, 2023, at Book 255 Page 742, by TRUSTEE Helena Abstract and Title Company, given by GRANTORS Kara L. Parsons and Jeffrey D. Parsons do hereby give this NOTICE of SALE by SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE Rydel Peterson of RVP Law, PLLC.

The real PROPERTY subject to this NOTICE is: Tract B-Remainder Tract as shown on Certificate of Survey recorded in Book 1 of Plats, page 822, located in Section 13, Township 7 North, Range 1 East, P.M.M., Broadwater County, Montana.

This NOTICE is premised upon a default for non-payment of the principal amount and interest due and owing under the Indenture Note that was due on March 4th, 2025. The amount due under the Note is \$392,568 accruing interest at a rate of 7.49% per annum.

The BENEFICIARIES have elected to sell the PROPERTY to satisfy the obligation of the GRANTORS.

The DATE of the SALE is set for January 30th, 2026, at 2:00 pm MST at the Broadwater County Courthouse located at 515 Broadway St., Townsend, Montana, 59644.

You can contact Rydel Peterson at RVP Law, PLLC at 406-239-2500 for more information.

Published December 12, 19 and 26, 2025

MNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Townsend Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, January 8, 2026, at City Hall, 110 Broadway, Townsend, Montana.

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider a request for a variance from the Townsend Municipal Code to allow a temporary use to live in a recreational vehicle (RV) while a residential structure is being constructed on the property. The property is located in the Low Density Residential District.

Pursuant to Section 12 "Board of Adjustment" of the Townsend Zoning Ordinance the applicant has requested the following variance:

Section 13.20.030.C (Recreational Vehicle Parking) – The Ordinance does not permit occupying an RV on a lot but Section 2 allows for a temporary use permit to be granted by following the variance process outlined in Section 13.36. The applicant is requesting to live in an RV on the property until they can get a residential structure constructed on the property in 2026.

The property is located at 509 South Harrison within the Low Density Residential District. The property is legally described as Tract C of COS 1-638.

Maps and related data regarding this application may be reviewed by contacting Jeremy Fadness, WWC Engineering, 1275 Maple Street, Suite F, Helena, MT 59601, 406-443-3962. Written comments may be directed to the Deputy City Clerk, 110 Broadway, Townsend, Montana 59644. Written comments must be received by January 8, 2026, by 4:00 p.m. Interested parties are invited to attend the Public Hearing and make known their views and concerns on the proposed Variance application.

UPON REASONABLE NOTICE, THE CITY OF TOWNSEND WILL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE PERSONS WITH SENSORY IMPAIRMENTS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY CLERK.

Published December 19, 2025 & January 2, 2026

MNAXLP

TOSTON IRRIGATION DISTRICT

NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER AND ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER ELECTION

Nomination Petitions for Water Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner for Division 3 (All lands east of US Highway 287) to be elected at the March 12, 2026 Annual Meeting may be picked up by qualifying landowners at the Toston Irrigation District Office, 8711 US Hwy 287, Toston, MT 59643.

The petitions must be returned to the District Office no later than December 28, 2025.

Published December 19 and 26, 2025

MNAXLP

Americanisms

Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall.

— Larry Wilde

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Justice of the Peace Report

– exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees
Skylar W. Wells – Townsend – Speeding on national 4 lane – exceed day limit of 75mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Trace R. Giomi – Townsend – Unlawful harassment of game animals & birds with vehicle or device (1st offense) – Plead guilty - \$235 fines & fees with a deferred sentence of six (6) months.

Traci A. Hanegan – Spokane WA – Violation of commission or department order or rules – negligently shot/kill spike bull elk in HD391 restricted to antlerless and brow-tined bull – paid fines - \$135 fines & fees

Jeremy J. Hicks – Livingston – violation of commission or department order or rules – shooting for waterfowl, hunting after legal shooting time. Shooting time ends at sunset – paid fines - \$135 fines & fees

Nicholas B. Nadeau – Three Forks – violation of commission or department orders or rules – hunter self reported shooting mule deer in HD380 without special permit which is required – paid fines - \$135 fines & fees

Jordan M. Templin – Helena – violation of commission or department orders or rules – shooting for waterfowl, hunting after legal shooting time. Shooting time ends at sunset – paid fines - \$135 fines & fees

Taylor J. Wigley – Bozeman – Type of PFD / Boat Length – Operating a vessel over 16ft in length without having the required type IV throwable floatation device – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

BROADWATER COUNTY FINES

Ronnie R. Reiger – Laurel – Speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Audrey I. Arnold – San Diego, CA – Reckless endangerment of emergency personnel – reckless endangerment of highway workers – paid fines - \$285 fines & fees

Gabriel W. Booth – Helena – Reckless endangerment of emergency personnel – reckless endangerment of highway workers – paid fines - \$285 fines & fees

Mark A. Creegan – Bozeman – speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Nicole R. Lindgren – Helena – speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Denise C. Mui – Helena – speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$20 fines & fees

Lucy N. Novoa – Kalispell – Operating vehicle without liability insurance in effect (1st offense) – paid fines - \$285 fines & fees

Tristan M. Rhodovi – Baltimore, MD – speeding on non-interstate – exceed night limit of 65mph – paid fines - \$70 fines & fees

Sean R. Valentine – Kalispell – speeding on non-interstate – exceed day limit of 70mph – paid fines - \$120 fines & fees

Philip K. Wipf – Bozeman – stop sign violation – paid fines - \$85 fines & fees

COUNTY CRIMINAL

Tyler L. Plum – Bozeman – Criminal Mischief Pecuniary Loss Less than \$1,500.00 – plead guilty – \$285.00 fines & fees as well as six (6) months in jail with all six (6) months suspended with good behavior

Ty M. Peterson – Three Forks – Violation of Conditions of Sentence – Admit - \$185.00 fines & fees as well as one (1) day in jail and completion of Batterer's Education Program. Sentence is deferred for one (1) year with good behavior.

Deadline for Teachers to Apply for Geospatial Camp: December 19

MSU News Service

Montana State University will select educators and organizations in five rural Montana communities to host a fully sponsored Geospatial Skills Camp for high school students in June 2026.

The camp is being made possible thanks to a \$430,000, three-year grant awarded to MSU's Science Math Resource Center from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. The camps that take place in June 2026 will be the second of three groups recruited under the grant. Applications are now open with a deadline of Dec. 19.

Along with the Science Math Resource Center, the camp is hosted by the MSU Department of Earth Sciences. An initial grant of \$85,000 supported the inaugural camp in 2024.

This year's camp, designed for students entering ninth and 10th grades, will be held June 15-19 in five rural communities. Educators and camp leaders will receive training virtually from MSU and will then deliver the

camp in each community. Each site will receive funding for lunch, snacks, transportation, STEM equipment and more. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The MSU team includes undergraduate students in education and earth sciences working with faculty and staff to create the curriculum. Educators in the partner communities then customize the camp curriculum for their students. Educators are encouraged to relate camp skills and experiences to their students' interests, including community needs like natural resources management, precision agriculture or meteorological forecasting; personal interests like robotics, human performance or aviation; and national topics of interest such as security, energy or climate change.

Though some activities, like guest speakers, will be scheduled throughout the week for all the groups, the camp is meant to be customizable to each community based on its needs, according to Suzi Taylor, director of the Science Math Resource Center.

One goal of the camp is to help kids learn about careers and fields of study related to geospatial science and engineering, particularly those connected to the Air Force and other organizations that offer employment in rural areas, Taylor said.

In addition, campers will be invited to visit MSU later in summer to attend GIS Day, which the Science Math Resource Center hosts with support from MSU's Geospatial Core Facility, a hub for all things geospatial on campus and beyond.

Camp materials will also be posted online so people from around the state can use the camp curriculum and customize it for their own communities.

Partner organizations in rural Montana communities that would like to host the June camp may apply now. Taylor said any community educator organization is welcome to apply, such as libraries, schools, out-of-school programs, 4-H clubs or scout troops.

For additional information, contact geoskills@montana.edu or visit montana.edu/smrc/geo-skills.html.

HOLIDAY HOT LUNCH & Hangout

11 am - 1 pm December 22 & 23
11 am - 1 pm December 29 & 30

Free hot lunch for school-aged kids & teens

Play a board game with friends!

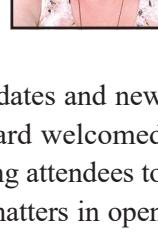
Townsend Bulldog PTA & community members will be on-hand to help, but please no unattended kiddos under 12.

Family Promise of Greater Helena Townsend/Broadwater County

FISHES

Townsend School Board Addresses Attendance, Transportation, Policy Updates, and New Opportunities for Students

Rachael Brug
Staff Reporter



The Townsend School Board's December meeting covered a range of important topics, from student attendance and transportation challenges to policy updates and new extracurricular opportunities. The board welcomed public comment at the outset, reminding attendees to avoid discussing individuals' private matters in open session.

Transportation and Bus Maintenance

The board discussed recent issues with the district's bus fleet. One bus was recently deemed inoperable due to undercarriage rust, and a spare from Bulldog Bus Lines was also out of service. Staff worked diligently to keep routes running, but the board acknowledged the hardship when a route is interrupted. Plans are underway to assess the value of the inoperable bus and to prepare a resolution for its disposal in January.

Attendance and Student Engagement

A significant portion of the meeting focused on attendance rates, with administrators emphasizing the link between classroom presence and academic achievement. Only first grade exceeded the district's 95% attendance goal this month, with illness cited as a major factor. Staff use the Class Dojo platform to maintain communication with families and encourage regular attendance. The board reiterated that even excused absences count toward the state's recommended 10% maximum for missed school days, as missed instruction can impact student progress.

Middle School Initiatives and Testing

Middle school staff discussed efforts to build relationships and support students through the MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) framework. The board heard updates on recent standardized testing and ongoing efforts to introduce students to a variety of career paths. Attendance rates have dipped due to flu season, but staff are working to boost engagement, including plans for a hot chocolate celebration if all students pass their classes before winter break.

Facilities, Maintenance, and Safety

The board reviewed ongoing building maintenance, including boiler repairs and safety improvements in the elementary gym. A new maintenance contract is expected to save the district money in the long run and provide better emergency service. The board also discussed recent carbon monoxide sensor alerts, which were promptly addressed with help from local emergency services.

Policy and Personnel

Board members reviewed and updated several district policies, ensuring alignment with collective bargaining agreements and state law. The board also approved personnel changes, including coaching and substitute appointments.

New Opportunities and Elections

In a key decision, the board approved eighth-grade participation in individual high school sports and activities such as cross country, wrestling, and golf.

The board also set the timeline for upcoming trustee elections, with a new one-year seat opening due to a trustee's planned resignation.

The meeting concluded with thanks to staff, students, and the community for their continued support during a busy season.

Grant Writing 101

Allison Kosto



A couple of weeks ago, I wrote an article with potential sources of funding for agricultural businesses. Looking for funding sources can be time-consuming, but the real work begins when you have selected a funding agency. Grants are often highly competitive so attention to detail and taking the time for a well thought out grant application is critical. I've written quite a few types of grants and had some success over the years. Here are a few of my top tips for writing grants.

Before you do anything, read the funder's grant guidelines. This is often called the "request for proposal" (RFP). Some funders may even request a pre-proposal, which is a much shorter application to evaluate if your proposed project fits their funding criteria. Some RFPs are cumbersome and lengthy, but understanding the organization's goals, criteria, deadlines and requirements is critical. One piece missing from your application may be enough to drop you from the pool of applicants.

Next, start to put together the application. I recommend beginning with your project's goals and objectives. If your goals do not match those of the funders, then it may not be worth the time and effort to put in a grant. When I'm writing grants, I'm very strategic in utilizing similar language that is in the RFP so that it is easy for grant reviewers to see that the project aligns with their organization or agency.

Another important component of the grant application is defining the need. Funders want to know why the project matters and how it will make a difference in the community or your business. They want to know if they provide funding for the project, that it would be put to good use and isn't filling an unnecessary need. Keep it simple but utilize data or stories to illustrate the need.

Next, define measurable outcomes of your project. For example, saying that a livestock water development project will increase pasture utilization by 20% is more measurable than simply saying "cows will use the pasture better." However, make sure that the outcome is truly attainable and something you can actually measure, because if your grant application is successful, then you'll likely need to do a report at the end to report if you met your project goals and anticipated outcomes.

The budget is another vital component of a grant application. Funders want a big picture of how much the project will cost. Be specific. If you are asking for \$20,000 then break it down by how much each part of the project will cost. Be realistic but give yourself a little flexibility due to rising costs. Some grants, especially government grants, can take a while to process and results in costs increasing during this period. Also, don't forget to consider labor as part of your budget. Don't inflate your costs too much though, because that can be a big red flag for grant reviewers.

After you get a draft of your grant application done, ask someone to review it. I'd suggest asking someone who is familiar with your proposed project in addition to someone who is not. They will view the application through different points of view and provide excellent feedback, including project components that might be missing areas that are difficult to understand. Proofreading boosts professionalism and makes it clear to the funder that you are taking the application seriously.

Before you submit anything, reread the RFP one last time. Did you forget anything? Some grant applications will even ask for videos or supplemental materials such as tax returns, organizational officers or copies of deeds. Give yourself plenty of time to collect the materials that you need. A late grant application is almost certain not to be accepted.

Writing grants takes time and attention to detail. If you find this process overwhelming or lack the time to make it happen, there are professionals who can help with the process. In some cases, nonprofits can help you write grants if they fit within their organizational mission. An example of that is Montana Business Assistance Connection, our area economic development organization and Food & Ag Development Center, can sometimes help with grants that are business related. There are also for-profit organizations that write grants professionally. Some charge a flat or hourly rate for their time, while others may charge a percentage of the grant.

Grant writing classes are also offered periodically through various organizations and are a great way to learn more about the process if you are going to be writing multiple grants. While I'm not a professional grant writer, I'm also happy to help with proofreading or providing guidance on the grant process. Contact MSU Extension in Broadwater County at 406-266-9242 or allison.kosto@montana.edu.



Broadwater County Commissioners Agenda

Broadwater County Commissioners



515 Broadway, Townsend
Meetings are held at the Flynn Building on 416 Broadway St.

Current and previously recorded meetings, official agenda, and minutes may be viewed on the website at www.broadwatercountymt.gov.

Per Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 2-3-202, the agenda must include an item allowing public comment on any public matter that is not on the agenda of the meeting and that is within the jurisdiction of the agency conducting the meeting.

Public comments will be taken either in writing before the meeting or in person at the beginning of the meeting. Mail and items for discussion and/or signature may occur as time allows during the meeting. Issues and times are subject to change. Working meetings will be posted on the agenda and will not be recorded.

OFFICIAL agendas are posted at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting in the Courthouse (1st-floor bulletin board), on our website at www.broadwatercountymt.gov, in the window of the Flynn Building, and in the local MT43 Newspaper when possible to meet the publishing deadline.

Monday, December 22, 2025

10:00 AM Public comment on any subject not on the agenda, that the Commission has jurisdiction over

10:00 AM Discussion/Decision, Robert D. Hartley Airport Hangar Lease

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

10:00 AM Working meeting with Bill Jarocki, County Administrative Officer, CAO office, regarding projects and deadlines

Thursday, December 25, 2025

All County offices closed ~ Christmas Day

The county strives to make the meeting available virtually but cannot guarantee access due to platform failure, internet interruptions, or other potential technological malfunctions

Items for Discussion / Action / Review / Signature – Consent Agenda

- Certificate of Survey review
- Management – on-going advisory board appointments, by-laws approval, interlocal agreements and non-financial contract renewals
- Claims/Payroll/minutes
- County Audit / Budget
- Mail – ongoing grants
- Correspondence – support letters
- Task Orders

Debi Randolph, Vice Chair

(406) 266-9270 or (406) 980-2050

drandolph@broadwatercountymt.gov

Jesse Swenson

(406) 266-9272 or (406) 980-1213

jswenson@broadwatercountymt.gov

Lindsey Richtmyer, Chair

(406) 266-9271 or (406) 521-0834

lr richtmyer@broadwatercountymt.gov

E-mail: commissioners@broadwatercountymt.gov
Future Meetings will be held at the Flynn Building (416 Broadway)

Please note: These meeting times/dates may change.

Please check the county website

- Trust Board Meeting on January 6th at 11:30 AM
- Fair Board Meeting on January 8th at 5:00 PM
- Planning Board Meeting on January 13th at 1:00 PM
- Solid Waste Board Meeting on January 13th at 6:00 PM
- Noxious Weed Board Meeting on January 20th at 6:00 PM
- Airport Board Meeting on January 21st at 6:00 PM

The Commissioners may be attending these board meetings (except the Planning Board)

Townsend School District

Trustee Filing Period

Brad Racht

Superintendent Townsend Schools

The filing period for the May 5 Townsend Board of Trustee Election is open from December 11 to February 9. The election is May 5.

The election will be for two (2) trustees for a three-year term and one (1) trustee for a one-year term.

A Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy for Trustee Candidates may be picked up at the office of the Broadwater County Election Administrator (515 Broadway, Townsend, MT) or at the office of The Townsend K12 District Clerk (201 N. Spruce, Townsend, MT). Forms may also be accessed at the Montana Office of Public Instruction Website. Forms require a notarized signature.



Elkhorn Community Fellowship

126 N Cedar St. Townsend

Pastor Eric Crusch (406) 949-0183

Sunday: 11:00am- Services

Wednesday: 4:00 - 5:30pm Team KID for K - 5th Grades

| 6:00 - 7:30pm Youth Group for 6 - 12th Grades

*

Faith Baptist Church

5 Jack Farm Rd. Townsend

Pastor Mike Wenzel (406) 266-4219

Sunday: 10:00am Sunday School | 11:00am Morning

Service | 6:00pm Evening Service

Wednesday: 7:00pm Bible Study & Prayer

*

Holy Cross Catholic Church

101 S Walnut St. Townsend

Parish Contact (406) 266-4811

email: office@holycrossmt.org

Sunday: 3:30pm - 4:15pm (or by appt.) Reconciliation |

4:30pm- Mass | 5:30pm (during the school year) Dinner

with 6:00pm Religious Ed for all Grades

Adult Education Programs found on holycrossmt.org

Monday: 9:00am Mass | 9:30am Adoration

Tuesday: 9:00am Mass

*

Mountain Valley Church (of the CMA)

110 E Street Townsend

Pastor Eric Krueger (406) 594-7609

MountainValleyChurch.org

Sunday: 10:00am Services with Nursery, Kids and

Youth Ministry

Wednesdays: 6:30- 8:00pm The Rock Youth Ministry

and Adult Bible Study Groups

Livestream: Facebook.com/mountainValleyChurch406

Life groups meet weekly. Call for more information.

*

Radersburg Baptist Church

7 Main St, Radersburg

Special Service Pastors (406) 266-4673

Sunday: 9:45am Sunday School | 11:00am Worship

*

Set Free Christian Fellowship

424 N Pine Townsend; PO Box 1163

Pastor Carol Bergstad (406) 461-2181

Sunday: 9:30am Service | 7:00pm Set Free Recovery

Thursday: 7:00pm Bible Study

*

Seventh Day Adventist Church

200 N Cedar St. Townsend

(406) 241-0042

Saturday: 9:30 Service | 10:30am Sabbath School

Tuesday: 6:30pm Bible Study

*

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church ELCA Synod

301 N Cherry St. Townsend

Steve Ward, Synod authorized minister (406) 220-8911

Office hours Mon & Wed 9 am to noon

Council President Rick Arnold (406) 633-2677

Sunday: 9:30am Services

Second Tuesday of the month: 4:00pm Women of the

ELCA meet.

Bible Studies meet weekly. Call for more information.

*

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

916 Broadway St. Townsend

Bishop Matt Graham (406) 266-4255

Sunday: 8:30am Choir Practice | 9:30am Sacrament

Meeting | 10:40am Sunday School

Wednesday: 6:00 - 9:00pm Family History Center Open

For Family History Center appointment call Director,

Rebecca Mitchell, (406) 980-0270

Wednesday: 6:30pm Youth Activities

*

Townsend United Methodist Church

200 N Cedar St. Townsend

Pastor Mele Moa (406) 266-3390

TownsendUMC.org

Sunday: 9:00am Services

*

Trailhead Christian Fellowship

20 Trailhead View Dr. (5 mi. north of Townsend)

Pastor Clay Muinzer (406) 266-4406

Sunday: 9:00am Sunday School and Christian Education

| 10:00am Services

Wednesday: 4:25 - 5:50pm Awana Program for K- 6th

Grades | 6:15 - 8:00pm Youth Group for 7th-12th Grades

*

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

...When they had come into the

house, they saw the young Child

with Mary His mother, and fell

down and worshiped Him.

And when they had opened their

treasures, they presented gifts

to Him: gold, frankincense

and myrrh.

MATTHEW 2:11

Detail from "The Three Magi"

by Karl Schmidt-Rottluff (1917)

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SENIOR CENTER

SR. CENTER MEALS: DECEMBER 22 - 26

516 2nd Street, Townsend MT 406-266-3995

Monday, December 22

Cabbage Rolls

Mashed Potatoes

Dinner Salad

Whole Grain Bread

Mandarin Oranges

Tuesday, December 23

Holiday Dinner

Baked Ham

Mashed Potatoes

California Vegetables

Whole Grain Bread

Spiced Apples

Desert

Wed, Dec 24 - Fri, Dec 26

Closed for Christmas Holiday

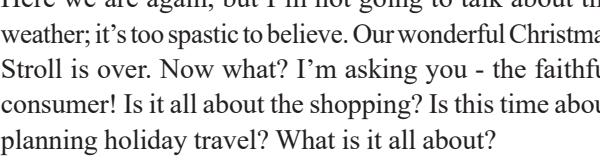
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In-Between Times

Here we are again, but I'm not going to talk about the weather; it's too spastic to believe. Our wonderful Christmas Stroll is over. Now what? I'm asking you - the faithful consumer! Is it all about the shopping? Is this time about planning holiday travel? What is it all about?

In the long years I spent in the Military, this time of year was all about "jockeying for position" in order to prepare if we wanted to travel home for the holidays; if we wanted to take 24-hour duties for other folks who wanted to go home for the holidays.

Travel plans alone could be...interesting! Especially if you were overseas, in Germany or any other duty location. Having to travel to the US East Coast got involved. Flying into NY City increased the stress incredibly! I remember one year flying into Kennedy International Airport and having to catch a flight at Laguardia Int. Airport about 2 miles away. What? I finally found a way; they had a tiny helicopter that flew between airports. Once you found the helicopter, the trip took about 30 seconds. Weird!

My trip always involved flying up north to Syracuse, NY, then an interesting bus trip the rest of the way north. I must admit I actually always enjoyed the bus trip; I was usually in uniform, which got me talking with many folks on their holiday trip. Before they ruined my travel by tinting the windows. I used to love waving and throwing kisses to the ladies from the bus. Hey, fun is fun, leave me alone.

As we/you travel nowadays, you must be aware of your surroundings! Watch other people, keep an open perspective on how people are acting. Travel has changed. Better to travel, if possible, with one carry-on bag; it is easier all the way around.

This time we are in around here can be a wonderful time. Folks out and around looking for that "perfect" gift or helping others make sure their holidays will be a bit brighter. Enjoy the weird but warmer weather, watch out for ice! Don't hurry as much; enjoy the friendliness of our Townsend folks.

Remember to keep the season holy, be friendly and helpful to people around you. Try to keep the Christmas Spirit alive in your heart. Never mind those 3 Ghostly idiots floating around trying to tell your fortune. Our local vendors are all open and more than happy to help you pick out that gift for that special someone. Remember, CATS are happy with a Box! Beware of...Or look for strategically placed mistleto!

Enjoy your Holiday season, people and be safe! The roads are very Icy, drive slower than usual. Take care, and do not taunt the grouchy people, no matter how much fun it is!

Until the next time, when I will impart more wisdom of the ages, stay safe and happy.

The Garden Bug Myrrh

Myrrh trees grow in the very hot, very dry

regions of the Arabian Peninsula, Somalia and

Ethiopia. The resin of the myrrh tree has a long

and ancient history as a valuable substance in

many cultures. To harvest it, the tree

itself is wounded repeatedly to cause

its resin to "bleed" out, then harden.

These secretions are then collected and

used to make perfume, incense,

flavoring for food and as medicine.

Myrrh can be grown in warm, arid parts

of the U.S. such as southern California,

Arizona, Texas, and Florida.

Brenda Weaver

Source: Healthyplants.com/Myrrh

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Why All the Violence?

Fr. Cody Williams

Holy Cross Church



Over the past several years, many feel that the amount of violence in our world has increased. Our news feeds feel full of violent acts, with what seems like a daily occurrence. Why is there so much violence? Why does it feel like the world is becoming more violent?

Let's take a moment and reflect on these questions. Historically speaking, the world has always been a violent place. Humanity has endured wars in every century, violence in the streets, and horrible acts of dehumanization. Does this change the story? It doesn't. The question we should be asking is, why haven't we done anything about it? We often tout ourselves as a civilized and progressive society that is looking forward to a brighter

OBITUARIES

Kory David Bakkum

Family of Kory David Bakkum

August 10, 1962 – December 2, 2025

The family of Kory David Bakkum, 63, of Townsend, Montana, is heartbroken to announce that he died unexpectedly on December 2, 2025, leaving us shattered and grieving the loss of the man who was the center of our world.

Kory was born on August 10, 1962, at Livingston Memorial Hospital in Livingston, Montana, to Byron “Ben” Bakkum and Beverly (Blessum). He grew up in Livingston with his older sister Kim and graduated from Park High in 1981.

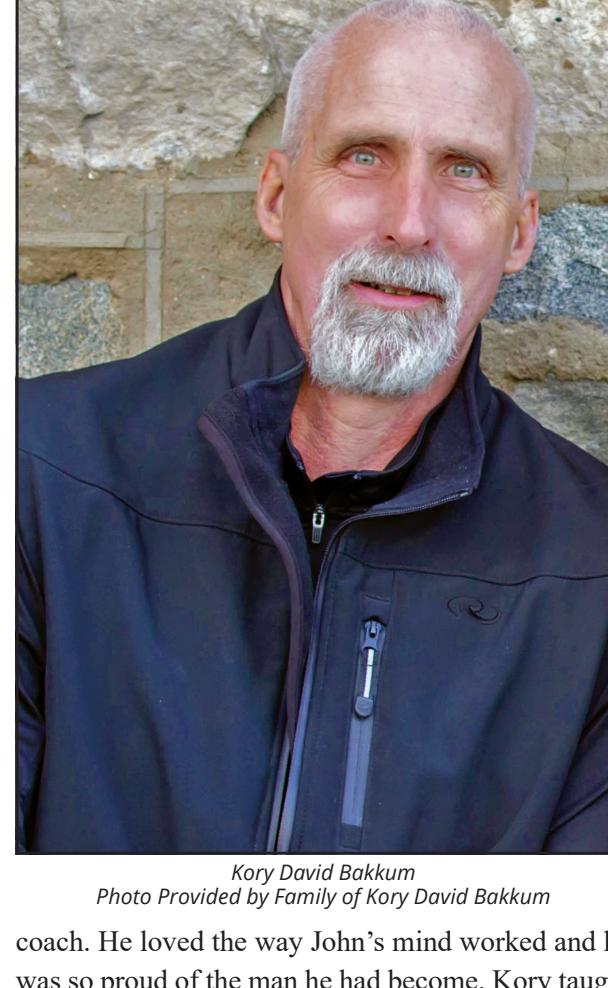
Kory played basketball at Mayville State University and earned many honors with the Comets. He was a 6’8” forward who set a record for the most points scored by a freshman (301). He went on to be named All-Conference three times and, in 1985, was named All-District 12, MVP of the NDCAC, Most Valuable Senior in the NDCAC, the leading rebounder in District 12, and the fifth in rebounding nationwide.

A four-year starter, he was instrumental in bringing NDCAC championships to Mayville State in 1983 and 1985. Kory played semi-professional basketball in Bamberg, West Germany and Melbourne, Australia. In 1997, Kory was inducted into the Mayville State University Athletic Hall of Fame. This was the first time that MSU had both a father and son inducted into the Hall of Fame and his dad, Ben, was so proud to be the one to present the award.

Kory began his career as a math teacher and coach in Halliday, North Dakota. After two years, he moved to Victor, Montana, where he taught for just over a decade. In 1997, he married Denise (Anderson), and they remained in Victor until 2001. From 2001 until his retirement in 2016, Kory taught in Townsend, Montana. While in Townsend, he coached basketball and volleyball, even assisting in their State Championship season. He served one year as the head volleyball coach and then named himself “the worst volleyball coach in the history of Townsend Schools!” Kory taught both of his own children in their high school math classes. After retirement, he subbed and volunteered and eventually he jumped in as a custodian in the new elementary school. At the time of his death, Kory was the “big, tall janitor” on the second floor. His love for kids of all ages made the job something he looked forward to. He had as many great stories about the littles as he had when he taught the bigs.

Kory also had a career on the golf course. Not as a professional golfer, although he probably could have, but as a groundskeeper. His years at Old Baldy saw him go from mowing and weed-eating to becoming the official superintendent. The course was a source of pride and frustration! He kept it green and made it better. He loved it and hated it and cussed it and missed it when the season ended.

Kory and his son, John, shared a love for math and all things sports. He watched John develop his talent for basketball and golf, not just as a player, but as a



Kory David Bakkum
Photo Provided by Family of Kory David Bakkum

coach. He loved the way John’s mind worked and he was so proud of the man he had become. Kory taught him through word and deed to work hard, to be humble. John followed in his dad’s footprints as a teacher and coach in Fairfield. Kory and Denise had planned to try to make it to as many Eagles games as possible this season to “watch John coach.”

Kory took every opportunity to drive to Missoula to be with his daughter, Joy. From the moment she was born, she stole his heart. She made him giggle like nobody else could. He liked to say that because of her, he got to see the world. She led us to NYC and Vegas. She pulled him out of his comfort zone and fascinated him with her talent on the stage. One of his proudest moments was watching her on stage in the MCT production of “Puffs.” They talked about cooking, and dogs and they shared that mischievous sense of humor. She was the light of his life.

Kory is loved beyond measure by his wife, Denise, and their children, John and Joy. He will be forever missed by his sister, Kim. He married into a big, loud family and he loved them all. Even if he called you a “freak,” he meant it with love. He leaves behind that family, which includes Denise’s parents, John and Amy; Denise’s siblings and their children: Jason (Jessica) and Eli; Chris, and Jenny (Kyle). He was so proud to be Uncle Kory to Miya, Sylvia, Jenny and Percy. He loved Denise’s Grandma Jean and Grandpa Herb. He enjoyed Christmas in Shawmut and spending time with all of Denise’s aunts, uncles and cousins.

Kory’s parents, Ben and Beverly, preceded him in death. We believe he is safely in God’s hands, but we will miss him for the rest of our lives.

To honor his legacy, the Kory Bakkum Memorial Scholarship has been established. This scholarship will help future students pursue their goals with the same determination and heart that defined Kory’s life. Donations in his honor may be made to this fund.

Kenneth Arthur Short

Family of Kenneth Arthur Short

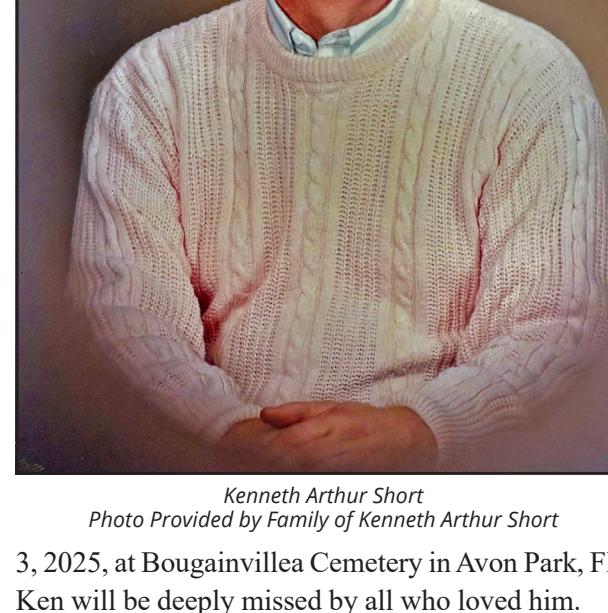
September 27, 1938 – November 3, 2025

Kenneth Arthur Short, age 87, was the son of the late Charles & Velma (Kernan) Short of Westfield, PA. He was preceded in death by a brother, Bernard Joe. Ken was born on September 27, 1938, in Clymer, PA. Ken passed away peacefully on November 3, 2025, with loved ones by his side.

He was a 1956 graduate from Cowanesque Valley High School in Westfield, PA, served honorably in the U.S. Army, and later became an entrepreneur in Pennsylvania and Florida. Ken is remembered for his joy of life, friendship, business acumen, and love for cars.

He is survived by a daughter, Anita (Short) Grover of North Venice, FL, and two sons, Kimberlee Short and Kevin Short, both of Tallahassee, FL. Ken was also a beloved uncle, grandfather, and great-grandfather, cherished by his numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who will carry forward his memory.

A celebration of Ken’s life was held on December



Kenneth Arthur Short
Photo Provided by Family of Kenneth Arthur Short

3, 2025, at Bougainvillea Cemetery in Avon Park, FL. Ken will be deeply missed by all who loved him.

Sauerbraten: The Opposite of Roast Turkey?

Eileen Clarke
Rifles and Recipes

I can make an argument for that. Roast turkey is tasty, but it’s white meat, with a pale gravy. Pale and pale. Sauerbraten? It’s a vibrant, dynamic in-your-face piece of the Old World. Once the turkey has been picked clean, let’s wrestle a goose out of the freezer and break open the spice rack. And if you don’t have waterfowl, venison will work as well.

Most important part of this recipe? You have to keep the marinade: it’s the cooking sauce. We’re all so used to pouring the marinade into the sink, but DON’T. Meanwhile, while the sauerbraten stews, boil some potatoes. Serve them sliced or mashed, with sauerbraten poured on top. Finally, don’t forget to bone out the thighs. There’s lots of meat there, and thigh meat is just as good as breast meat.



Eileen and Lena with Alberta Geese
Photo Credit: Eileen Clarke

Sauerbraten with Ginger Snaps
Makes 4 cups/1 quart

The Brine Ingredients

1 whole Canada goose, boned out (about 1½ pounds)

1 cup apple cider vinegar

1 cup cold water

1 onion, chopped

½ cup brown sugar

9 whole cloves

5 bay leaves, crumbled

1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon salt

2 teaspoons white pepper

The Rest of the Ingredients

1 cup flour

⅔ cup oil

4 ginger snap cookies, about 1 cup crumbled

Preparation

1. Cut the boned goose meat into 2” wide, ¼” thick strips. Combine the vinegar, water, onion, brown sugar, cloves, bay leaves, salt and white pepper in a re-sealable plastic bag. Add the goose meat and refrigerate 48-72 hours.

2. Remove the meat from the marinade and set it aside. Pour the marinade into a sieve set into a bowl—be sure to save it. That’s the cooking sauce. Dry the meat with paper towels. Pour the flour into a re-sealable bag and shake the pieces of meat in the flour. Dust off the excess so you have only a light coating of flour.

Cooking

1. Heat the oven to 250°F. Pour the drained marinade into a 3-quart enameled Dutch oven and turn the heat on that up to medium. Now you can throw away the solids left in the sieve--onions, bay leaves and cloves--from the marinade.

2. In a 10 to 12 inch skillet, heat half of the oil over medium to medium-high heat until it starts to smoke. Sauté the pieces of goose in 2 batches, not overcrowding the pan, until just lightly browned. When the first batch is done, wipe out the pan, add the other half of the oil and let it heat up before adding the next batch. (It won’t take long, so keep an eye on it.) As you brown the meat, toss the finished pieces into the Dutch oven with the marinade.

3. If the sauce isn’t already simmering when you’re done browning the meat, bring the Dutch oven up to a simmer. Cover the Dutch oven, then transfer it to the preheated oven, in the center, horizontally and vertically. Cook about 2 hours, or until the meat is tender, checking the moisture once or twice so it doesn’t burn. (See page 20 for more on that.) Just before serving, crumble 4 to 6 ginger snaps, to taste, into the sauce and stir them in well.

They will sweeten the sauce and thicken it, too. This recipe is from Eileen’s wild game cookbook, The Wild Bowl—100 wild game soups, stews and chilies. It’s available at www.riflesandrecipes.com/406-521-0273 and Goose Bay Glass, Reading Leaves and Birdie’s Eclectic Emporium right here in Townsend.

It's your future. Let's protect it.



Dustin Gillaspie
410 Broadway, Townsend, MT
406.442.0456
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Townsend's 2025 Christmas Stroll



Even the Grinch made an appearance
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Santa and Mrs. Claus pass out candy to the kids
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

Matt Nelson



There were a lot of happy faces in Townsend on the evening of Saturday, December 7th, while the annual Christmas Stroll was going on. Sponsored by the Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club, Broadway Street was jammed packed with people lined up to see the parade and wandering in most of the stores that were open and offered treats.

Santa's Workshop, located on the lot at the corner of Broadway and Front Street, had a stream of parents taking their kids to see the big guy himself. Santa and Mrs. Claus warmly greeted the kids, gave them candy, and asked what they wanted for Christmas. Naturally, the kids were excited and had the biggest grins.

But these kids were not the only people with happy grins – Emily, Violet, Char, Baylee, and Madison, ladies working at the Mountie Moose Bakery, made the older people pleased with the tasty donuts they served.

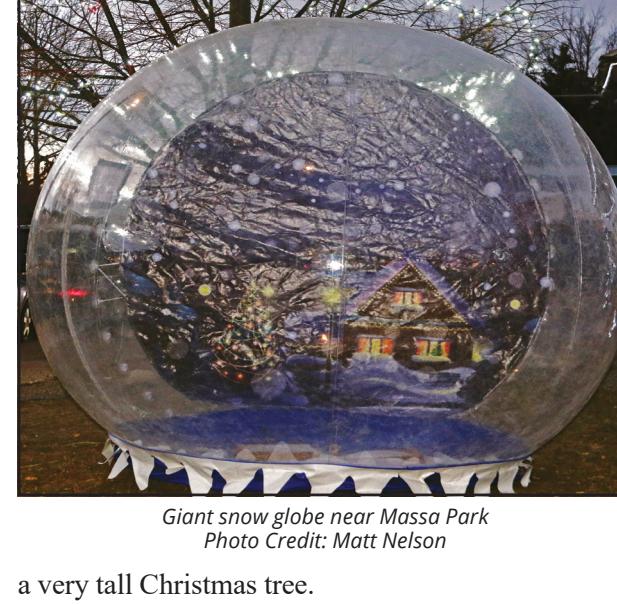
The Rotary Club was responsible for putting up all the strings of lights on the big tree at Mazza Park, and they did a good job of it, too. The tree looked very nice. Nearby, there was a snow globe about six feet in

diameter, which was excellently made.

Leading off the parade was the Chamber of Commerce car, and an unidentified man from the U.S. Forest Service riding a horse followed a trailer with a banner on the side which said "Precision Business Resources" and had several adults throwing candy. Behind them a pick-up truck with several strings of Christmas lights and a big blow-up Santa had kids near me saying "Oohs and Ahs!" Following the truck with the big blow Santa were several Junior High and High School girls wearing Santa Claus hats and jackets that said "Vigilantes" (probably from East Helena) marched and waved batons.

Also in the parade there were pick-up and/or flat bed trucks that represented several businesses or organizations, such as the Broadwater County Bull Dogs, Broadwater Community Theater, Little Creek Feed, and a green Grinch Santa standing in a flat bed trailer. A couple high school kids drove a decorated John Deere tractor with a trailer holding more kids.

The Townsend STOKE organization's van was in the parade, as well as another truck with kids in back and a label on the truck saying FIREBRAND FORESTRY. The most interesting parade vehicle was very well decorated with many lights, had two reindeer, and

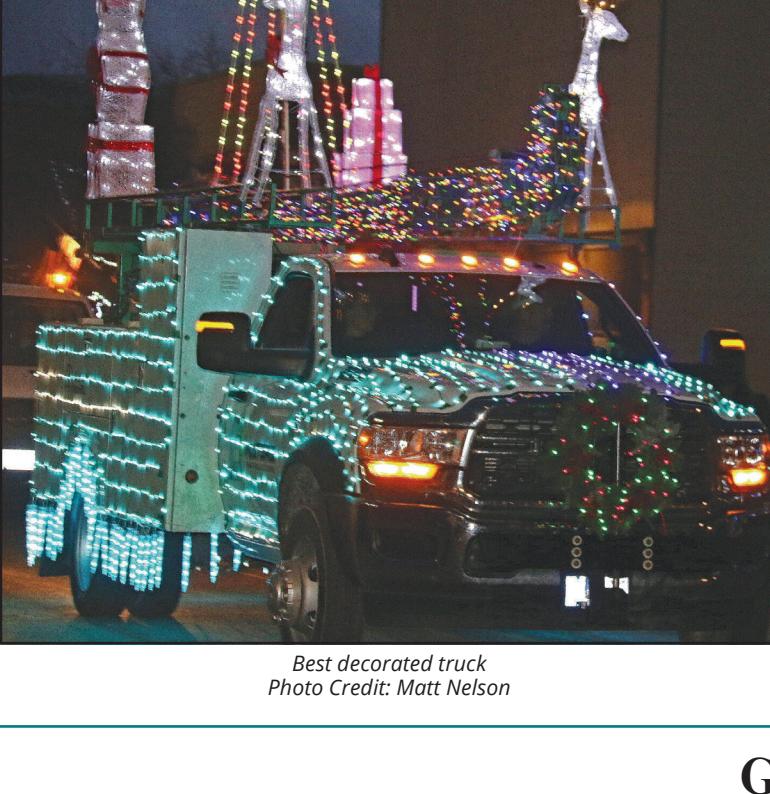


Giant snow globe near Massa Park
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

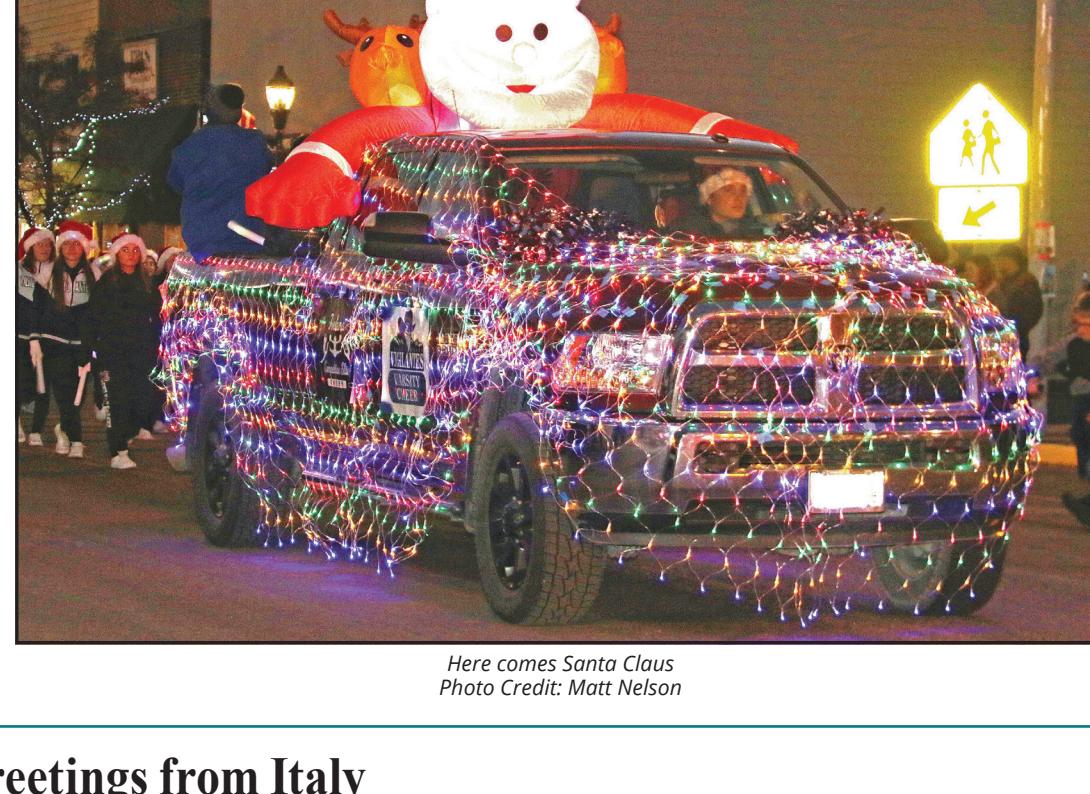
a very tall Christmas tree.

At the end of the parade the Rotary Club had a trailer with a log cabin on it, with some kids standing behind the cabin near a Christmas tree, and at the back of the trailer was a red sleigh holding another (fake) tree with the words, "Santa's Tree Delivery."

All of you participants did a very good job. Thanks, and Merry Christmas to all of you and your families.



Best decorated truck
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson



Here comes Santa Claus
Photo Credit: Matt Nelson

Greetings from Italy

Carolyn Peace

Why Trani? Why did we choose Trani?

We have traveled to Italy some 35 times, starting in 1992. We first came to Trani in 2021 to see the area and use it as a base while we traveled along the Adriatic Sea Coast. We met a young couple and owners of one of the local coffee shops. We remained in contact with them after we returned to Montana.

In the spring of 2023 we decided to return to Trani for three months. We carefully checked out the town and met several local residents and an American couple from California. We decided that a second three-month period was needed. We returned in December of 2023, and at that time we decided this was the right location for us.

We proceeded to move forward and looked at an apartment that was being renovated. Our realtor and

friend wrote the rental contract for us (the contract has to be in Italian and English). We returned to Montana in March and started the process. With all the documentation compiled, we began the visa process in April and were approved in August of 2024.

Even local residents ask us, "Why Trani?" We always say it's the people. We are friends with people we meet on our walks, shop owners, and a group of expats from England, California, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Canada.

In conclusion, if you go to a foreign country for two or three weeks, don't assume this is the right place for you. We recommend staying for a three-month period for at least two different seasons of the year. For us, Trani is too warm from late June until the middle of September. The other months of the year the weather is very mild and comfortable.

The most difficult thing for us is the language, but the locals are helping us and we are learning.



Out for Pizza with friends
Photo Credit: Carolyn Peace

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



SPONSORED BY
THE BROADWATER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& THE COTTER FOUNDATION

BY LINDA HUTH

December 18

1902

Local News

New and well Millinery of all descriptions for Christmas at Mrs. McCuin's.

A.B. Tinsley and Wm. Neild were passengers to Helena Monday, returning Tuesday.

Our public schools close for the holidays on Dec. 24th and resume work again on Jan. 5, 1903.

Diphtheria is reported in Winston.

Tim McCarthy's family have removed back to their city residence for the winter.

Come to the Christmas ball and tell your friends all about your Christmas presents.

A portion of Deep creek is under quarantine, the families of W.S. Thompson and Thos. Thompson being afflicted with scarlet fever.

Dancing school will be tonight (Friday) at the Auditorium instead of Monday. The Broadwater Orchestra will render the music and a good time is anticipated. Everybody is invited.

Bish Williams and James Wilder of Radersburg spent Saturday in town shaking hands with old friends and transacting business.

1941

Townsend Boys at Pearl Harbor All Reported Safe

A letter that brought news of the safety of her son, James, was received by Mrs. Jennie Bonine Wednesday morning of this week. James is a Finder Operator on the U.S. Cruiser Minnesota. The letter was censored and while there was no information disclosed as to whereabouts, James reported that he was well and happy.

Mrs. Anna Moudree received a cable from her two sons, Herman and Bob, in Honolulu on Friday. The message also brought news of their safety. One son is a member of the navy stationed at Pearl Harbor and Herman is working for a construction company.

Mr. and Mrs. S.E. Sutherland, likewise, had a cable from their two sons, Chester and Harold from Hawaii. Harold, who is in the army was on duty when the surprise attack occurred and was uninjured although his barracks were demolished. His brother is in the civil service and was also safe when the message came

through.

There are many anxious parents or relatives in the community who have sons or other relatives at Wake Island, but who do not expect personal news for weeks owing to the hostilities. Other relatives await news of sons in the navy and army who have been sent to foreign ports.

A Scotswoman's Formula

An aged Scotswoman writing her thanks for Bundles for Britian, gave this recipe for taking a bombing. When the air-raid warning sounds, I take the Bible from the shelf and read the Twenty-third Psalm. Then I put up a wee bit of prayer. Then I take a wee drap of whiskey to steady my nerves. Then I get in bed and pull up the covers and tell Hitler to go to h---

Canton Valley News

A very large turkey et al, was served on Sunday at the home of Mrs. Nora Daniels and son, Wm. C., to the following guests Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Wallace and little son, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wallace and two daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Thompson and Mrs. Daisy Brewer of Rainier, Ore., who is a house guest of Mrs. Daniels. During the afternoon Miss Hilda Lamb and Mrs. Henry Gosney of Helena valley visited at the Daniels home.

Eddie Daniels of Bozeman M.S.C. and Miss Lillian Daniels of Helena visited Saturday night and Sunday with their parents Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Daniels and Miss Irma Daniels on Cottonwood.

Mrs. La Villa Morris, teacher of the Canton school will hold a Christmas program and tree at the school house on Tuesday evening, December 23rd.

The Johnson school announces their program and tree will be on Friday evening, December 19.

County Commissioner and Mrs. Herb Gill entertained at dinner Friday night, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. O. Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ragen, Mrs. Grace Myers and Wayne Waddell, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clark and the host and hostess Mr. and Mrs. Herb Gill. The dinner honored Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clark.

1958

Local News

Diana Lee Biggs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Biggs, celebrated her birthday Monday, Dec. 8 with a belated party, her birthday being December 5. The

guests enjoyed a luncheon from a table decorated in the Christmas tradition. Invited guests were Peggy Christie, Stephanie Rains, Laurel and Cheryl Lamier, Toni Minemeyer, Susan Wallace, Nancy Fryhling, Pam Leanhart, Gerri Rosetta, Linda Schwisow, Sandra Ewing, Betty Ann Dufresne and Linda Noyd.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Plymale entertained at a Christmas dinner party on Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Plymale ranch home. Guests were Mr. Bert Plymale, Mrs. H.C. Plymale, Mr. and Mrs. Laird Plymale, Mr. and Mrs. Ubert Quist and sons of Helena, Mr. Wayne Plymale and Mr. Hubert Plymale.

Among those from Townsend who attended the basketball game between the MSC Bobcats and Washington State Cougars at Bozeman Monday night were Shirley Van Voast, C.R. Grady, Sam Rice, Howard Doggett, Dr. McKillican, Dr. Nash and Gene Connors.

1975

Rick O'Shay Creation Wins Window Contest

Christmas art is all over town thanks to the Broadwater County High School Art Class. This Christmas window project was under the direction of Chris Christensen, art instructor at the school, and Tony Francisco, interested businessman.

Judging of the colorful paintings took place last week and the following winners are: Robin Williams and Don Kotto first place (\$30.00) for their Rick O'Shay creation in the Foster building window.

Jackie Sautter and Shane Welch second place (\$15.00) for their Santa in the Grover Motor window.

Third place was a tie (\$10.00) between Vivianne Kirscher and Jackie Holland for their Raggedy Ann and Andy scene in the Lundy's window and Nancy Hossfeld and Mary Graham with their Santa Clause in the Hunsaker Dry Goods window.

A special thanks go to the merchants for the use of their windows and donating prize money.

Ray Doig Wins Shopping Spree

Ray Doig of Townsend was the lucky winner in the First Annual Jaycee Shopping Spree which concluded on Saturday. Doig will be allowed three minutes of free shopping at Lundy's Market this Saturday at 2 p.m., according to Mike Kiedbusch, president of the local chapter.

Doig's name was drawn from almost three hundred tickets last Saturday.



Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

Francis Pharcellus Church

In 1897, "The Sun" (a newspaper in New York City) received a letter to the editor from a child:

Dear Editor: I am 8 years old.

Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in The Sun, it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?"

The following answer by editor Francis Pharcellus Church is as true today as it was in 1897:

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make

tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world, there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

